

ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)
OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Launch of the Al-Shader Cultural Diwan in London

On 20 October, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team was invited to attend the opening of an Iraqi and Arab Cultural Salon in London.

This cultural salon (diwan) was founded by Mr Saadi Al-Shader in London, with the aim of gathering Iraqi and Arab cultural figures in an informal environment with healthy debates on many cultural and intellectual issues.

The cultural salon's opening was attended by many Iraqi and Arab writers and media figures. Many discussions took place in that event, including a talk by Dr Sayyar Al-Jamil.

Traditional Iraqi and Arab music was played by the Iraqi musicians and artists Ehsan Al-Imam and Suhaib Hashim Al-Rajab. The salon's décor is reminiscent of the Iraqi and Arab gardens, with the grapes and greenery and the walls decorated with paintings by Iraqi artists.

October 2018

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Launching of the Al-Shader Cultural Diwan in London



Guests listen to traditional Iraqi and Arab music at the opening of the Al-Shader Cultural Diwan

Arab art exhibition in London

An art exhibition was held in the Arthill Gallery, London between 16 and 18 October, titled "Steps". This was organised by the European Union Migrant Artist Network (EU-MAN).

Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team was pleased to receive an invitation to this event from EU-MAN's co-ordinator, the Iraqi artist Mr Amir Khatib.

The exhibition consisted of more than 24 artistic and sculptural displays. Some of these artists are living in exile, and EU-MAN has managed to gather artists living in Europe with others in their native countries; Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, Palestine, India and Greece.

More than 10 Egyptian artists exhibited their paintings, nine of whom are female. This was reflected in their artistic styles, moods and colours of the Nile, the Egyptian environment and history.

The exhibition included a small reception for guests, at which the Iraqi Ambassador, Dr Salih Hussain Al-Timimi, gave a few words to greet the artists, guests and exhibition organisers. The exhibiting artists greeted guests, and introduced themselves and their work to the guests.

Also, a small selection of traditional Arabic music was played by the Iraqi musician, Ehsan Al-Imam.



The formation of modern Iraq within a generational framework

This cultural event was held at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) in London on 17 October.

The event featured a knowledge presentation by the Iraqi professor, Dr Sayyar Al-Jamil, who lives in Canada. His presentation was titled "The formation of modern Iraq within the framework of the theory of generations".

Dr Sayyar Al-Jamil is an Iraqi professor who has worked in many universities in the Arab world and abroad, and he is the author of several books on Arab history.

Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team was present at this event, which was attended by Iraqi community members, groups and activists.

Dr Al-Jamil tried to take the audience to what he believes is a new, groundbreaking generational theory. He believes that each generation is 30-35 years, and he believes that Iraq is now facing a catastrophic crisis. According to Dr Al-Jamil, each country facing catastrophic crises of this nature needs 3 generations to recover. In short, Dr Al-Jamil is telling the audience that Iraq will not recover and prosper for 100 years!

The audience, including Nadeem, challenged him on this. His generational theory is not new; it is well known in Arab studies takes 33 years. It is not acceptable to reduce the morale and spirit of any nation, even in its darkest hours, and to tell them they need another 100 years to recover and prosper.



African, Arab & Asian Seamen's Contribution to the Great War

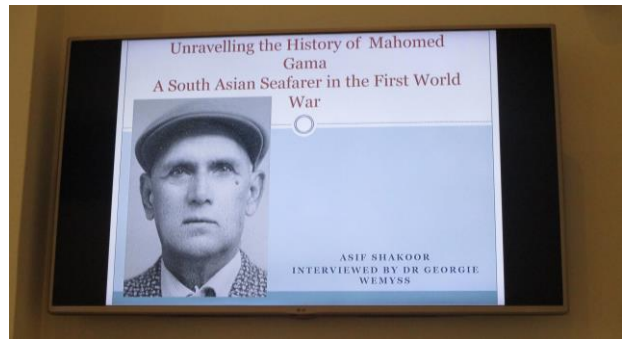
On 11 November, the UK will mark 100 years since the end of World War 1, also known as the First World War and at that time, known as The Great War).

As part of the world's remembrance of these 100 years marking the end of the First World War, an event was held at the Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest in east London on 27 October.

The Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest is based on East India Dock Road, which is an area full of seafaring history in London's docklands. Some offices of the former East India Company are located nearby, as is the Mission to Seamen Institute. This event included a presentation, audio-visual displays and a photographic exhibition depicting African, Arab and Asian seamen's role in the British Empire 100 years ago, at the time of the First World War.

A talk was given to the audience by Mr Asif Shakoor, which was managed and facilitated by Dr Georgie Wemyss from the University of East London. He visited his grandmother's home in Pakistan in 2011, and in his grandmother's wooden box he found that his grandfather, Mohamed Gama, had served as a merchant seaman during the First World War. He spent years researching about his grandfather's documents and medals in the national archives of the UK, USA, Canada and Australia. He also managed to buy the same medal awarded to his grandfather.

In the event, he briefed the audience about this story and Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team added that a great number of these merchant ships went to Mesopotamia (Iraq).



On Memory: An Evening with Palestinian Writers

This event was held on 29 October at the Arab-British Centre (ABC) in London. Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) team attended this event.

The event featured an evening of poetry and drama with Palestinian poets and writers.

The event organisers described it as *"Behind the headlines and milestones and tweets, there are people and stories and morning rituals. There are memories and details so resilient they pass from one generation to another, they cross borders and traverse checkpoints to be captured in poems and plays, novels, art pieces and a whole tableau of rich and vibrant life. What shapes current Palestinian memory? Is it the place, the events, the people, the political figures, the martyrs, the heroes, the children, the walls and fences, the hope? Why do writers even write?"*

The speakers were Ms Jehan Bseiso, a Palestinian poet and aid worker, Ms Selma Dabbagh, the author of several Arab fiction works, and Mr Ahmed Masoud, a writer and film director.



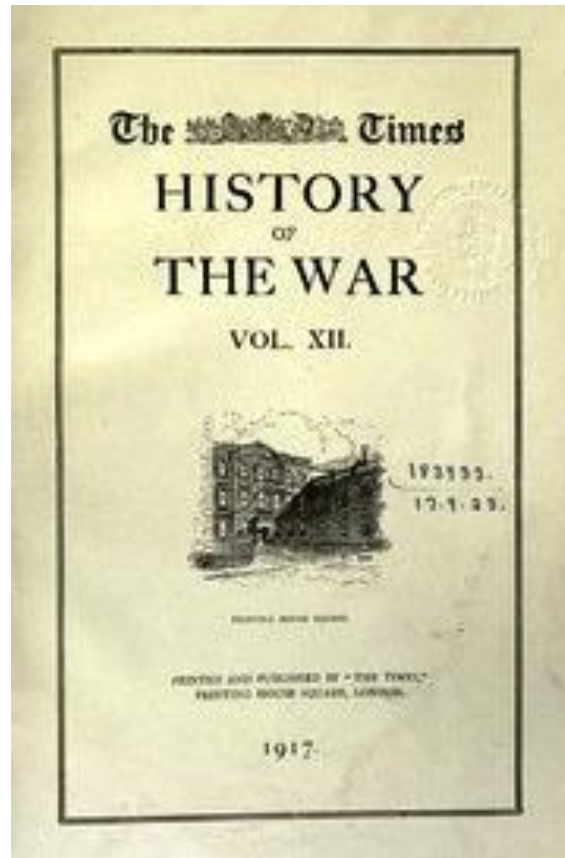
FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

"The Siege & Fall of Kut (January-April 1916)", *The Times History of the War (Volume 12)* (published 1917)

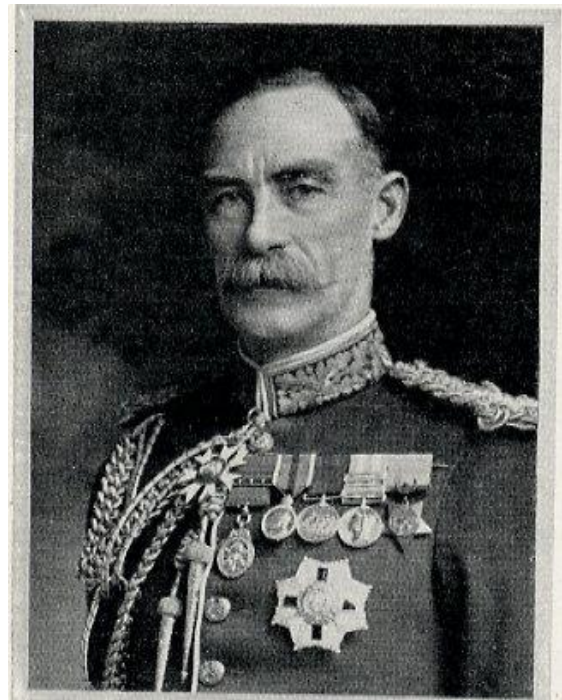
As the world marks 100 years since the end of the First World War on 11/11/1918, we are continuing to re-present and review articles from "The Times History of the War". During the First World War (1914-1918), The Times published 22 volumes of what became known as "The Times History of the War".

This article, "The Siege & Fall of Kut" was the 191th chapter of "The Times History of the War" (Volume 12) which was published in 1917. It covers the first phase of the British Army's Mesopotamia campaign, looking at how the British Army, having captured Kut in 1915, advanced to Baghdad where they lost the Battle of Ctesiphon and were forced to retreat to Kut. After a six-month siege in Kut, the British Army were forced to surrender on 29 April 1916.

The fall of Kut marked a turning point in the British Army's Mesopotamia strategy. In 1915, the British Army's ambition to advance from Basra to Baghdad with their existing personnel and artillery was premature. This led to the defeat near Baghdad and their retreat to Kut. The British Army's numbers were boosted tenfold under a new leader (General Sir Stanley Maude). This enabled them to re-occupy Kut the next year and to advance to Baghdad in 1917.



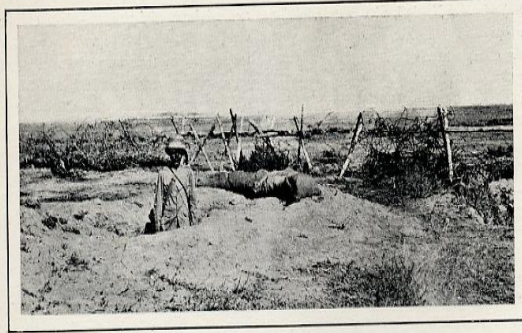
"The Times History of the War" (Volume 12)



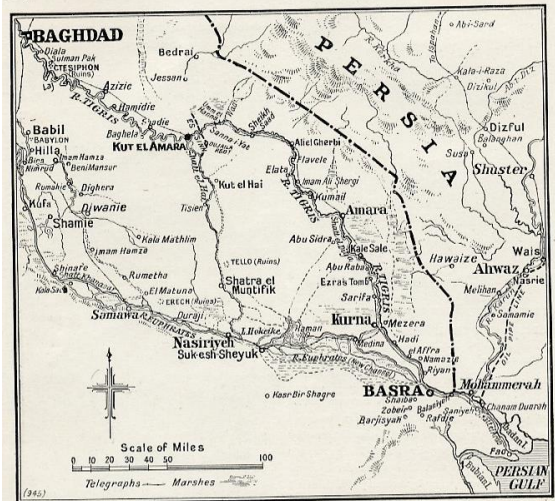
General Sir Percy Lake, who commanded the British Army in Mesopotamia (Iraq) between January - August 1916



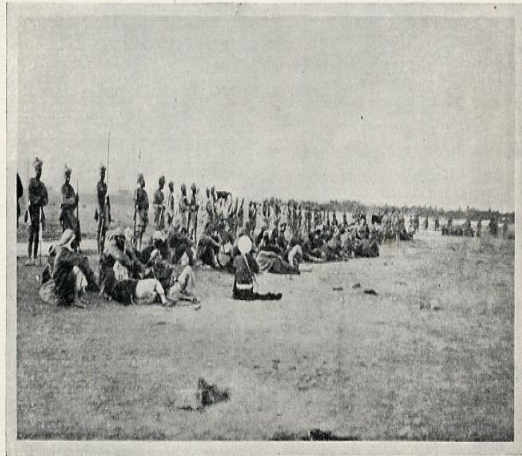
SULIMAN PAK, NEAR CTESIPHON:



THE TURKISH SNIPER'S POST AT UMM FL HANNA.



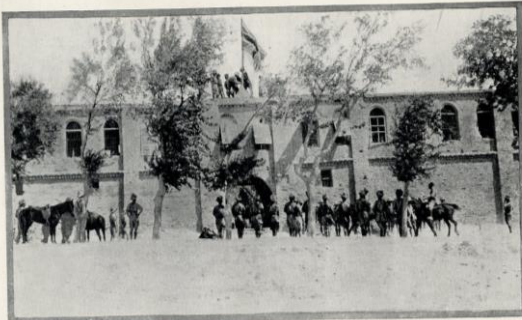
MAP ILLUSTRATING THE BRITISH OPERATIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF KUT.



TURKISH PRISONERS GUARDED BY INDIAN TROOPS.



BRIDGE OF BOATS AT SHEIKH SAAD.



THE HOISTING OF THE BRITISH FLAG AT KUT.



INDIAN MOUNTAIN BATTERY.



A KELEK OR FREIGHT RAFT ON THE TIGRIS.

These photographs from "The Siege & Fall of Kut" show the British Army's Mesopotamia bases, Indian soldiers, Turkish Army prisoners, Turkish Army posts, Mesopotamian riverboats and a map showing the British Army's plan for the Kut operation from 1916.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out more about the AISC project, our activities and services, please visit our website at:

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“Enhancing Integration Through Knowledge,
Where East Meets West ”

